

chedi by the road which the locals call Chedi Mai Tha (Pier Marker Chedi), as it is a visible symbol for those traveling by river that they are almost at Wat Koh Klang.

There is another mound outside the temple walls to the northwest in the vicinity of Ban Bo Kaw which the villagers call Noen Mae Mai. Legend holds that this

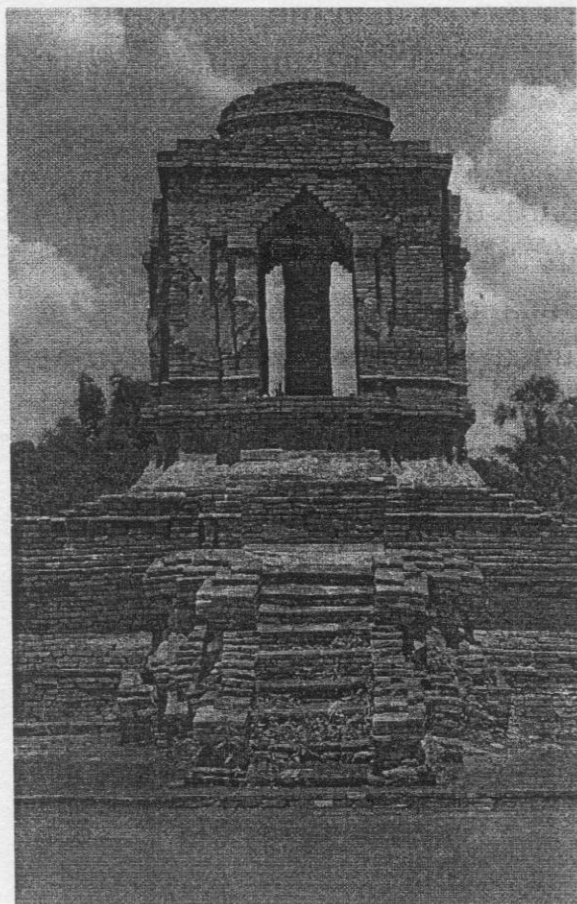
area was home to a rich man called Intha, and also the place where Queen Cham Devi gave



birth. The mound is covered with scattered brick remains, and many interesting ancient artifacts have been found here including a stucco naga sculpture and a very refined Dvaravati dragon sculpture. Today the mound and all the other ancient monuments in the Wat Koh Klang area are under active archaeological exploration.



Wat Koh Klang

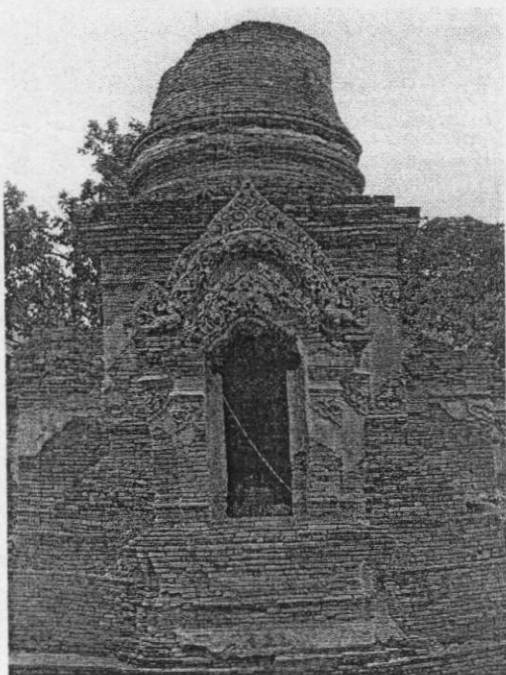


The most recent archaeological dig in 2548 BE (2005 CE) revealed an outstanding site which many art historians consider unique in the North.



**Hariphunchai
National Museum**

What was discovered was the principal chedi of the temple, made of brick in a pyramid shape topped with a bell-shaped stupa. The chedi features niches on all four sides which protrude much further than those on other chedis, hence it's name the "Belly Chedi". It is similar in style to Dvaravati chedis of the same period. Of particular note are the exceptionally beautiful stucco decorations of mythical creatures and intertwined botanical patterns (sometimes known as Lanna creepers) around the frames of the various niches.



The main chedi dates back to at latest the end of the Hariphunchai period, as can be ascertained from the inner foundation which predates the start of the Lanna era. It is likely that the current Lanna-style chedi was built over the original in a subsequent restoration.



Wat koh klang is located in Ban Bo Kaw, Tambol Ban Reuan, Pasang district, about 20 Km. from the city. It is an ancient temple with one of the most significant collocations of ancient remains in Lamphun, and can be found about 500 meters west of the Ping River. The local community comprises around 700 families of Mon origin who still speak Mon in their daily lives.



The ancient remains at Wat Koh Klang include the ruins of the ordination Hall, traces of the wall, the well, the western entrance gate, the eastern pavilion and a well-preserved religious building outside the temple wall. Before reaching the temple there is a large almost circular octagonal